

# The Shoreline Journal Tid-Bits

## Still Better Than A Carbon Tax Plan

Premier Tim Houston has submitted a new plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to the Government of Canada and has made it clear the Government of Nova Scotia is fighting climate change without a carbon tax.

The submission titled 'Still Better than a Carbon Tax' was submitted Thursday, March 28th, and is available online: <https://climatechange.novascotia.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/still-better-than-carbon-tax-plan.pdf>

"This plan will do more to address climate change than any carbon tax," said Premier Houston. "There is no question that climate change is causing more frequent and severe storms, wildfires, floods and other emergencies that threaten the safety of Nova Scotians and our communities. But our plan proves we can achieve these goals without hurting struggling Nova Scotians."

The Still Better than a Carbon Tax Plan combines:

- The Future of Nova Scotia's Coastline - Nova Scotia's coastal protection action plan helps coastal residents and communities prepare and mitigate climate risk
  - Our Climate, Our Future: Nova Scotia's Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth - the plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve the province's ability to be responsive and prepared for climate change
  - Nova Scotia's 2030 Clean Power Plan - a path to reach at least 80 per cent renewable electricity by 2030 and then net zero by 2050
  - Nova Scotia's Green Hydrogen Action Plan - a road map to support the emergence of a sector that makes best use of the province's natural resources to produce green hydrogen and hydrogen derivatives for export and for domestic use.
- Nova Scotia's Environmental Goals and Climate Change Reduction Act also commits Nova Scotia - in legislation - to the strongest 2030 greenhouse gas emission reduction targets in the country and includes actions that will help the province meet and exceed them.

## Rebates for Larger Zero-Emission Vehicles

New rebates for medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles, including commercial and industrial vans and trucks, are now available.

"Transportation is Nova Scotia's second-largest source of greenhouse gas emissions," said Tory Rushton, Minister of Natural Resources and Renewables. "Moving to zero-emission vehicles reduces emissions and supports our goal of reaching net zero by 2050. So we're continuing to offer rebates for electric cars and bikes and adding a pilot program with new rebates for larger vehicles."

Eligible vehicles include vans and trucks used for commercial or industrial purposes that weigh more than 3,856 kilograms (8,500 pounds) and electric resurfacing machines like Zambonis.

Clean Foundation is administering the new pilot through the Electrify Nova Scotia Rebate Program. It will offer rebates of up to \$50,000 per vehicle - depending on its class - to businesses, non-profits, municipalities and Mi'kmaw communities that want to move to electric vehicles.

Helping Nova Scotians buy more zero-emission vehicles is a commitment in Our Climate, Our Future: Nova Scotia's Climate Change Plan for Clean Growth. The plan aims to create a cleaner, healthier and more sustainable future for all Nova Scotians. It includes initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, switch to clean energy and transportation, create a clean economy, make homes and buildings energy efficient and able to stand up to the impacts of climate change, and help Nova Scotians adapt to the changing climate.

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**Deadline for the June issue of The Shoreline Journal is May 21.**

# Guardian

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## News from our Federal Capital - Dr. Stephen Ellis

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and Surgeons of PEI. One of my healthcare position pillars is the Blue Seal Program which would cut the red tape that makes it difficult, if not impossible, for qualified foreign healthcare professional to gain licenses to practice in Canada. The meeting presented positive outcomes, but there is more to do.

I took part in the Canada-China Committee meeting delving into the Winnipeg Lab Scandal. We are concerned about the actions of two Chinese-Canadian scientists which could be damaging to Canada.

I had the opportunity to sit down with Marc Rose, the recently named new RCMP district commander. We spoke of crime in the region. The commissioner outlined 13 recommendations implemented, of the 130 improvements to the police force, that are put forth in the Mass Casualty Commission Report.

I met with Amherst's Chamber of Commerce president Beth Peterkin to discuss business challenges and opportunities in Cumberland County.

It was an excellent time meeting with Dalhousie University President and Vice Chancellor, Dr. Kim Brooks. We discussed issues at the Agricultural Campus in Bible Hill. Housing and infrastructure are two of the pressing concerns at the AC, which has an international reputation for academic teaching and scientific research.

## News from our Provincial Council - Tim Houston

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This way, even if a doctor retires or moves, the patient remains with the practice and can be seen by other providers without interruption in care.

As we move in this direction, we have also created many other ways for Nova Scotians to receive care. This includes YourHealthNS and free virtual care through the app, mobile care in communities and expanding the scope of practice for many healthcare professionals, including pharmacists, to be able to provide routine care by prescribing certain medications and conducting some tests.

We're already seeing impact. There are 60,000 more primary-care appointments available across the province every single month through these options.

## News from our Provincial Capital - Tom Taggart

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and opportunities ahead I attended a 2-day Smart Energy Conference in Halifax last week. It was educational for sure and for sure there are both challenges and opportunities ahead.

However, it is abundantly clear we must reduce the need to produce our energy from carbon emitting fuels. There were many sessions focused on new and emerging technology that would reduce energy needs and consumption. I focused on green energy storage and hydrogen. In order to transition a larger portion of our energy production to renewables we must grow our capacity to store the renewables. Typically with batteries. It was exciting to learn the World recognized leader in research and development of new battery technology is located right here in Nova Scotia at Dalhousie University.

Now to Hydrogen. Many of those that do not support investment in development of this industry have said it is just a way for investors to get Canadian government subsidies and tax relief. What we were told at this conference did not show that to be factual. In fact, Canada lags far behind other leading

Dr. Brooks and I have agreed to meet again in the fall.

During April, I held Zoom discussions with every Canadian Dental Association from Newfoundland and Labrador to Nunavut. The focus was the Liberals Dental Care Bill and its shortcomings. Due to the uncertainty and academic burden of this bill, many dentists have refused to sign up for the program.

As part of a national Conservative Party Canvass Day, I was in Debert and Springhill with an enthusiastic group of volunteers, knocking on doors to share our Common Sense Conservative message. Axe the Tax; Build the Homes; Fix the Budget; Stop the Crime.

The fourth anniversary of the Portapique Mass Shooting took place April 18. I was unable to attend the ceremonies because of commitments in the House of Commons. I have been an advocate for change ever since those terrifying days and nights in 2020. A day does not go by without my thoughts turning to the most horrible mass murder rampage in Canadian history.

It is amazing how the community has shown its strength, vitality and forward-moving vision as seen through its almost-completed community centre.

I had an opportunity to present a Statement by Members in the House of Commons to honour the victims.

**Dr Stephen Ellis is MP for Cumberland Colchester. He can be reached at: 902-895-2863, or E-mail: [stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca](mailto:stephen.ellis@parl.gc.ca)**  
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But what if you have a condition that needs to be followed or monitored over time?

There is good news there, too. If you need more care than these services can provide, you can receive a referral through VirtualCareNS to a primary-care clinic or an appropriate specialist who will follow and manage your care for as long as you need.

The future of healthcare will look different - it has to. We need to use new solutions and a range of options to change how healthcare is delivered in our province.

Everyone's journey may be different, but our destination is the same. It's getting you more care, faster.

**Tim Houston, Premier of Nova Scotia can be reached at: [premier@novascotia.ca](mailto:premier@novascotia.ca) or 902-424-6600**

## News from our Provincial Council - Dave Ritcey

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Centre Society said during the announcement, "I am so pleased to share that our organization will host the 50th Annual Provincial Volunteer Awards right here at the Rath Eastlink Community Centre. This is not just an event - it's a celebration of 50 years of community pride. We cannot wait to elevate this monumental event and to honour our inspiring volunteer leaders from across the province."

More than 410,000 Nova Scotians volunteer each year, contributing almost 79 million hours. National Volunteer Week has just finished when it ran from April 14 to 20. Nominations

close on May 13. Award recipients are selected by a citizens' committee. Each Nova Scotia municipality and Mi'kmaw community also selects representative (individual) volunteers to receive a Volunteer of the Year award. Nova Scotians can contact their local municipality or Mi'kmaw community for details. Forms and more information are available:

<http://novascotia.ca/NonProfitSector/ProvincialVolunteerAwards/>  
**Dave Ritcey is MLA, Truro-Millbrook-Bible Hill-Salmon River. He can be reached by telephone at 902-897-0884 or by e-mail at [mrlaritcey@bellaliant.com](mailto:mrlaritcey@bellaliant.com)**

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